

CertAlert

DOT/Federal Aviation Administration, Southern Region Airports Division,
Airport Certification Safety Team, P.O. Box 20636, ASO-620, Atlanta, Georgia 30320
(404) 305-6700 (404) 305-6730 FAX

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This CertAlert pertains to:
[Types of airports to which this pertains]

ARFF Personnel Live-Fire Drill Training

In the past several months, the FAA Certification staff has been conducting a survey on ARFF live-fire drill training compliance at the 80 full-certificate airports in the Southern Region. Our findings indicate that 50% of those airports are training at a facility that is not "acceptable or approved" by the FAA. Because of our findings, we are issuing this CertAlert to reiterate Program and Policy Guidance #58, issued in 1998, which stated, in part, "... the objective of the training is to provide fire fighting experience commensurate with the level of public protection indicated by the ARFF Index of the airport".

During your annual inspection in FY2001, your Certification Inspector will be reviewing how you are providing live-fire drill training to your ARFF personnel. You should be prepared to address the following questions:

- Where do your personnel receive live-fire drill training?
- What are the dimensions of the fire pit and what else does the facility have to offer?
- What is the fuel source at the facility?
- How many times do your personnel receive training at that facility annually?
- Is there more than one location where your personnel receive their training?

Any facility that has been established as a FAA funded Regional Burn Facility will automatically be accepted for adequate training. A facility that is not recognized as a Regional Burn Facility will have to be evaluated for acceptance. If the inspector does not think the facility is adequate, you will be notified in writing and given a year to make arrangements to train at another facility. If you have not changed facilities or made arrangements to change facilities by the next inspection in FY2003, your airport will be found to be in violation of 14 CFR Part 139.319(j)(2), "All rescue and firefighting personnel are properly trained to perform their duties in a manner acceptable to the Administrator."

There are four Regional Burn Facilities in the Southern Region: Fayetteville, NC; Lexington, KY; Columbia, SC; and Ocala, FL. Additionally, there are other acceptable facilities in our region, which may be available to outside fire departments. Your inspector will review this CertAlert with you during your annual inspection, but if you have any questions before then feel free to contact your inspector.

-- From your Safety Certification Team, FAA Southern Region